

# TRUST LAND MANAGEMENT DIVISION

## 1. Personnel Management

- A. Develop a work environment that fosters cooperation, trust, motivation, and job growth.
- 80% of employees surveyed indicated that they are treated with respect by division management.
  - 92% of employees surveyed indicated that they have a good relationship with co-workers.
  - 77% of employees surveyed indicated that they can express themselves honestly and candidly at work.
  - 71% of employees surveyed indicated that communications in their work unit fostered a positive, productive work environment.
  - 54% of employees surveyed indicated that they feel part of a team working toward shared goals.
  - 57% of employees surveyed indicated that they have the opportunity to learn and do new things in their job.
- B. Coach, develop, and mentor employees.
- 44% of employees surveyed indicated that their supervisor has personally mentored them.
1. Provide leadership training opportunities to employees to promote professional development.
- Provided “17 Laws of Teamwork” training to Helena division personnel from 2/4/05 – 3/11/05.
  - Phil Clark provided Communications/Leadership training to division employees in Kalispell on June 7-8, 2005
  - TLMD/Forestry employees completed the following training:

<u>Training</u>	<u># of Attendees</u>
Conflict Management	34
Meetings for Results	7
Time Management	5
Management Essentials 1	13
Management Essentials 2	14
Excel	2
Access	2
Powerpoint	1
Windows	1

2. Provide technical training opportunities to employees to promote job competency.
    - 62% of employees surveyed stated that they have the opportunity to attend training and professional development courses.
  3. Recognize outstanding performance in a timely manner.
    - Awarded 10 divisional POP awards for FY05.
  4. Identify candidates for annual awards recognition by May 15, 2005.
 

Recognized the following employees with awards:

    - Governor's Award (Sandman, Poncin, Lorch, Horowitz)
    - Director's Award (Durran)
    - Administrator's Award (Groeschl)
    - Land Use Specialist (Baumgartner)
    - Forester (McMahon)
    - Support Staff (Giblin)
  5. Promote accountability of all employees through appropriate use of incentive and disciplinary measures.
    - Awarded 10 divisional POP awards for FY05.
  6. Complete all performance appraisals and career development plans by December 31, 2005.
    - Completed.
- C. Continue to refine Pay Plan 20, with employee input, to encourage future movement toward market.
- Compensation Committee met on May 4, 2005 and identified a list of 12 action items to be addressed by the Committee. The list of 12 action items was sent out to all areas and bureaus for comment and prioritization.
- D. Complete the Strength of Workplace Questionnaire – improve scores above last time particularly with regard to accountability and employee praise.
- Completed survey on April 15, 2005.
  - 93% of employees understand the goals and mission of the division
  - 73% of employees are passionately committed to the goals of the division
  - 43% of employees felt that management holds people accountable for results
  - 37% of employees stated that they have received praise or recognition for doing good work in the last seven days

- January 2004 survey results.
  - 84% of employees had a clear understanding of what the division is trying to achieve.
  - 71% of employees were passionately committed to the goals of the division
  - 21% of employees felt that management holds people accountable for results
  - 44% of employees stated that they have received praise or recognition for doing good work in the last seven days.
2. Enhance rate of return from trust lands  
 FY04 Net Revenue: \$35,677,393  
 FY05 Net Revenue: \$49,000,639 (37% increase over FY04)
- A. Allocate personnel to programs to promote highest return from land while meeting statutory obligations.
- On May 26th, the NWLO Leadership met with four Bureau Chiefs (Jeanne, David, Ted, and Rob), to determine if adjustments were desired in NWLO's organizational structure, and to craft a plan to fill the existing vacancies.
- B. Maintain or limit increases in operational costs.
- Operations expenditures increased from \$2,859,993 at FYE 2004 compared to \$3,147,540 at FYE 2005, however, FY 2005, included \$299,844 in one-time-only costs for the Ottercreek coal project and \$40,000 in one-time-only costs for the sustained yield study.
- C. Implement programs to increase trust land revenue.
1. Participate fully in oil and natural gas development in eastern MT.
    - Land Board approved 16 CBM wells in eastern Montana on April 18.
  2. Implement sustained-yield calculation.
    - FMB sold 57.8 mmbf of timber in FY05.
  3. Develop high-potential commercial and residential properties in urban growth areas.
    - Lowe's Home Improvement store opened on Spring Prairie (Section 36) in FY05.
  4. Utilize land banking to dispose of poor performing properties while acquiring accessible higher revenue-producing properties.
    - Reviewed more than 100,000 acres and processed 24,000 acres of state land to be sold under land-banking.

5. Monitor new recreational use agreement with DFWP to ensure actual increases in revenue are consistent with projections.
    - Forecasted FY 2005 (fiscal note for SB 130) revenues of \$93,501 for the recreational use account and \$837,384 for the recreational use revenues. Actual for FY 2005, \$99,523 (excluding \$4,341 paid to FWP to license agents, etc) for the recreational use account and \$877,313 for recreational use revenues.
  6. Seek passage of new legislation (forest leasing, log sales, selling development rights) to promote new tools for generating revenue.
    - Lobbied in support of SB 96, SB 97, SB 142, and HJ 33. Only HJ 33 passed the 2005 Legislature.
3. Strategic Planning
- A. Complete Real Estate Management Programmatic EIS.
    - Land Board approved Real Estate Management PEIS on July 18, 2005.
  - B. Complete development of draft HCP. Final EIS to be completed by FY07.
    - Developed Points of Tentative Agreement on Conservation Strategies in August 2005. Draft HCP not completed.
  - C. Complete Return on Asset Report for FY05.
    - Completed November 2004.
  - D. Initiate TLMD strategic plan.
    - Initiated Scoreboard Study in January 2005.

# **AGRICULTURE & GRAZING MANAGEMENT**

## **Lease Inspections and Evaluations**

- Completed inspections for approximately 863 leases. Seventeen leases were issued with five-year terms, the balance for ten-year terms. Approximately 70 leases were issued with associated agriculture uses and 73 leases issued with special lease stipulations.

## **Lease Management**

- Approved 18 cash leases averaging over \$21/acre.
- Reviewed and processed one break request totaling 630.4 acres.

## **Lease Administration and Assistance**

- Reviewed 54 improvement requests.
- Reviewed and approved 491 assignments.
- Reviewed and approved 6 sublease applications.
- Reviewed and approved 400 pasturing agreements.
- Reviewed and approved 5 custom farming agreements.

## **Federal Farm Program Administration**

- Direct and Counter-cyclical Payments Program (DCP)
  - Reviewed and approved DCP contracts (CCC 509's) for all (approximately 2,000) farms containing state agricultural lands.
- Loan Deficiency Program (LDP)
  - Reviewed and applied for LDP contract payments on qualifying crop production from state lands.
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
  - Reviewed and approved applications for new ten-year CRP contracts, maintained existing contracts on approximately 140,000 acres and reclassified lands associated with expiring contracts.
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
  - Reviewed and approved contracts for lessee participation in EQIP contracts on state lands.
- Management of State Farms
  - Reviewed and approved requests to recombine or break out state lands from existing Farm Services Agency farms.

## **Resource Development and Management**

- Reviewed and processed 25 water right permit applications.
- Worked on one contested water right hearing.
- Evaluated Trust Lands water right filings for upcoming Water Court Decrees.
- The bureau hydrologist reviewed 12 navigable river projects.

- Served as the DNRC representative to the US Army Corp of Engineers 404 Interagency Committee.
- Continued development of a GIS system to map wetlands on Trust Lands.
- Visited three potential wetland sites on Trust Lands identified with wetland GIS system.
- Worked on Bighole River Grayling issues.
- Completed four-year research project on the Yellowstone River involving installation of portable block dam used to prevent bedload accumulations in the intake channel of the Park Branch Canal Company.
- Completed a large restoration project on the West Fork of the Stillwater River.
- Worked on resolving a dam safety violation on Smith Lake near Whitefish.
- Conducted 19 cultural/paleontologic inventories, which covered a total of 5800 acres of land. The projects inspected are categorized as follows:
  1. 4 road easements
  2. 1 stockwater pipeline project
  3. 6 timber sales
  4. 6 range renovation proposals
  5. 2 windfarm development sites
  6. 2 sod break proposals
  7. 5 Parcels nominated for Land Banking (3200 acres)
- Documented 16 newly identified culture resource sites, during the course of those inventories. Site 24RA667 was evaluated.
- Assisted the DEQ with cultural resource compliance surrounding Major Facility Siting Act issues for the proposed Wind Hunter wind energy development project in Valley County, Montana;
- Worked cooperatively with the BLM and WAPA concerning the documentation, evaluation, mitigation, recovery, and curation of state owned artifacts and paleontologic specimens within the area of potential effect of the proposed Wind Hunter wind energy development project in Valley County, Montana.
- Developed general terms of reference for the documentation and significance evaluations of common surface stone features sites on state lands.
- Reviewed and consulted with the SHPO concerning, 27 consultants' reports covering a total of 575 acres of state land and 5 cultural resource sites. Those inventories were carried out in response to oil, gas or coal bed methane developments, gravel pit proposals and highway reconstruction projects.
- Prepared site forms and maps for 4 railroad sites in Sweetgrass, Stillwater, Richland and Wibaux Counties.
- Ensured finalization, distribution and consultation of a cultural and paleontologic resource inventory report of the inspection of 7,720 acres of land in the Otter Creek drainage was completed ahead of schedule.
- Provided internal review and comments on approximately 86 proposed DNRC undertakings for which EA checklists are required.
- Drafted language for an Invitation for Bid (IFB) and associated terms of reference for contracting a consulting archaeologist to conduct a cultural/paleontologic inventory of approximately 21,000 acres of land nominated for Land Banking in Chouteau, Custer and Garfield Counties.

# **FOREST MANAGEMENT BUREAU**

## **FOREST OPERATIONS SECTION**

### **Forest Product Sales For FY05**

- Prepared 27 timber sales, which were approved by the Land Board.
- Prepared and submitted volume Area Offices – 53.5 MMBF.
- Sold 26 timber sales, which accounted for a volume of 57.8 MMBF.
- Harvested volume – 55.7 MMBF.
- Issued 95 Timber Permits for harvesting sawlogs and pulp statewide.
- Generated total Timber Sale & Timber Permit Trust Revenue - \$13,651,631.
- Generated Forest Improvement Revenue - \$2,944,560.
- Provided input, oversight and testing for new version of TLMS.
- Provided TLMS Training and Assistance to Field Offices.
- Conducted MEPA review of all timber sales and participated as members (analysts, writers) on timber sale MEPA project teams.
- Provided economic, accounting and contractual support and direction to field foresters and managers for timber sale program.
- Conducted Timber Sale Administration Training.
- Revised and updated the Timber Sale Contract.
- Increased timber sale marketing efforts.
- Updated Return on Assets Report.

## **FOREST PLANNING & IMPLEMENTATION SECTION**

### **Habitat Conservation Plan**

- Completed conservation strategies for Grizzly Bear, Canada Lynx, and the Aquatics species (Bull Trout, Westslope Cutthroat trout, and Columbian Redband Trout).
- Awarded Congressional appropriation for HCP development and implementation for \$394,000.
- Prepared the sustained yield model for use in the HCP/EIS.
- Completed GIS analysis for grizzly bear modeling in the Stillwater and Coal Creek State Forests.
- Completed a portion of GIS analysis for affected environment.
- Developed GIS analysis for HCP species modeling design for aquatic conservation strategies.
- Prepared Chapter 1 (Introduction) and other sections of the HCP.
- Prepared Chapters 1 (Purpose and Need), 2 (Environmental and Procedural Setting) of the EIS.
- Developed the planning area, project area, and other maps and quantitative information needed to describe location and acres affected by the HCP.
- Completed Transition Lands Strategy.
- Completed Citizen Participation Plan.

<b>Forest Improvement Accomplishments FY05</b>	
Plantation regeneration surveys	602 acres
Tree planting	1,173 acres
Tree browse prevention <sup>1</sup>	870 acres
Precommercial thinning	1,642 acres
Noxious weed spraying	3,935 acres
Herbicide application <sup>2</sup>	680 acres
Brush piling	273 acres
Pile burning	3,163 acres
Broadcast burning	74 acres
Tree improvement areas managed	13 acres
Road maintenance <sup>3</sup>	51 miles
Hand brush work	116 acres
Cone collection	0 bushels
ROW granted	23 miles
received	152 miles
Bio-control Bug Releases	32 acres
Roads Inventoried and Database updated	316 miles
1. Tree browse prevention includes replacing, maintaining, or removing seedling netting, or applying a chemical repellent.	
2. Herbicide application is associated with tree planting.	
3. Road maintenance includes grading, snowplowing, bridge removal and upkeep, installing culverts, etc. Many of these activities do not lend themselves to reporting by miles.	



## **RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SECTION**

- Assisted Land Offices with MEPA analysis and contract design for 11 timber sales.
- Provided technical assistance to area land office resource specialists on 22 timber sale projects.
- Provided technical support to SWLO biologist on Lolo NF land exchange project.
- Assisted with implementation of Forest Management Rules associated with FM Resource Programs.
- Assisted Forest Operations Section with review of timber sale contract and cat ex revisions, and procedures for alternative practices to forest management administrative rules.
- Assisted Forest Operation Section with Timber Sale Contract Administration training.
- Provided technical input to Sustained yield study for wildlife, riparian/streamside management zone and cumulative watershed effects constraints.
- Assisted NWLO with Forest Road Engineering & Design training.
- Assisted Land Offices with noxious weed evaluations and bio-control distribution.
- Assisted SWLO and Agriculture and Grazing Bureau with Cooperative Weed Agreements.
- Coordinated and provide technical input to Swan grizzly bear research and monitoring technical team.
- Coordinated and reviewed annual Swan Valley Grizzly Bear Conservation Agreement Monitoring Report.
- Participated in Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem Subcommittee and DFWP grizzly bear conservation strategy meetings.
- Completed fish habitat surveys and stream temp monitoring on 30 sites.
- Completed surveying for DNRC Fish Passage Assessment project and distributed a first version of database to NWLO and SWLO hydrologists.
- Compiled fish habitat and riparian data for pre- and post- harvest monitoring in Swan State Forest and Dillon Unit.
- Initiated riparian soil temperature monitoring in Swan State Forest.
- Completed R1/R4 fish habitat inventory contract for upper Soup Creek, Swan Unit.
- Completed Internal BMP Audits on 11 DNRC Timber Sales.
- Developed a test version of a Watershed Inventory Database.
- Completed soil monitoring and woody debris surveys on 6 timber sales.
- Compiled DNRC Soil Monitoring Report on Timber Sale Projects from 1988-2004.
- Assisted in Development of DNRC Forest Lands HCP.
  - Administered and managed HCP contract and budget of \$1,050,000.
  - Developed Cooperative Agreement with MFWP for administration of HCP Development Grant for \$589,000.
  - Participated in HCP Planning Team (HPT) and coordinated activities of Aquatic Technical Workgroup and Terrestrial Technical Workgroup.

## **TECHNICAL SERVICES SECTION**

- Completed Sustained Yield Study report and distributed to DNRC offices and public. Land Board approved the new annual sustained yield level of 53.2 MMbf on October 18, 2004.
- Completed Sustained Yield Calculation contract.
- Allocated annual Sustainable Harvest by Land Office.
- Collected stand level inventory data and inspected for 10,842 acres for Plains Unit.
- Collected stand level inventory data and inspected for 9,509 acres for Missoula Unit.
- Provided assistance at least 6 times for timber sale cruises and operating INVTRY.
- Wrote and awarded another Stand Level Inventory Contract to inventory Plains Unit.
- Collected stand level inventory data in 2004 entered 20,300 acres into computer database for Plains and Missoula Units.
- Designed a draft plot data collection protocol and began collecting plot data.
- Researched and purchased combination GPS/electronic data collection devices.
- Visited two Unit offices to provide stand inventory updating training.
- Collected numerous timber sale maps and data and began stand inventory updating process.
- Collected annual Sula State Forest mortality monitoring data.
- Converted Sula State Forest mortality monitoring data into an ACCESS database and graphs and tables created for SFLMP monitoring report.
- Initiated the DNRC Inventory Data committee and chaired three meetings.
- Attended three DNRC Enterprise System committee meetings.
- Assisted in development of the Desired Future Condition acreage table by Unit for DNRC biodiversity objectives.
- Assisted with five land exchange projects.
- Provided data and maps for 12 data requests from outside DNRC.
- Provided GIS support to REMB programmatic EIS.
- Provided GIS support to SWLO land banking plans.
- Provided GIS maps and analysis to seven miscellaneous DNRC projects within forest management program.
- Prepared numerous maps, tables and spatial analyses for HCP project.
- Worked on HCP forest modeling committee.

# MINERALS MANAGEMENT BUREAU

## Administer the minerals management program

- Generated school trust mineral revenues of \$23.6 million in FY 2005.
- Oil production from school trust lands increased by 25.9 percent to 1,400,063 barrels produced, while gas production increased by 26.4 percent to 7,240,046 MCF.
- Processed 11 applications for land use licenses, 6 applications for metalliferous and 9 applications for non-metalliferous leases, including preparation of MEPA review.
- Processed 5 bond releases for expired mineral leases, permits and land use licenses.
- Processed 15 sand and gravel renewal applications and 14 new permit applications, including site review by field office, and preparation and issuance of permits by MMB.
- Prepared and processed 18 small volume permit and 6 prospecting permit applications. These were prepared and processed by the field offices.
- Processed 18 seismic permits applications, including site review by field office, preparation and issuance of permits by MMB.
- Processed 761 nominations, including field and other agency review, and solicitation of comments from interested public: MMB conducted four quarterly lease sales auctions, with preparation and issuance of lease agreements. Leases are for oil and gas exploration and development, and do not distinguish between natural gas from sandstone or shale formation, and natural gas from coal formations.
- Approximately 50 assists by field offices in the inspection of existing oil and gas leases and improvements, including photography of all sites inspected (except CBM).
- Approximately 16 assists by field offices in the inspection of existing oil and gas leases and improvements, including photography of sites inspected (CBM).
- Processed 73 reviews, including site and MEPA review by field office; with lease compliance, lessee status, depth restrictions, spacing requirements, and participation by MMB. Preparation and issuance of appropriate authorization by field office or MMB as appropriate.
- Approximately 20 assists/corrective actions by field offices in identifying and resolving minerals management problems.
- Approximately 40 reviews by field offices for approval of mineral reclamation.
- Field office expressed priorities are 1) training related to field review and evaluation of oil and gas activities, and 2) training on minerals portion of TLMS. Bobbi Coughlin (MMB petroleum engineer) formed a working group with field specialist to prepare information and practices documents for field staff. (+/- 90% complete).
- Prepared the narrative accomplishments summary as needed to document activities/accomplishments.

- Completed Otter Creek coal drilling program and cultural resource inventory. Initiated joint coal resource evaluation study with Great Northern Properties.
- Provided TLMS training to ad hoc field requests as needed. MMB anticipates formal TLMS training in combination with other bureaus as other processing module designs are completed.

# REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT BUREAU

- Real Estate Management Advisory committee held December 2004

## **Property Management**

- Billed and received revenues for the following types of leases and licenses:

### **Real Estate Management Revenues in Fiscal Year 2005**

Rights-of-Way/Easements	\$1,068,335
Land Sales	25,797
Residential Leases/Licenses	1,024,125
Other Leases/Licenses	938,280
Recreational use	
General Licenses	64,246
Conservation Licenses	916,806
Special Recreational Use Licenses	<u>109,378</u>
TOTAL	\$4,146,967

- Completed homesite renewals in the following area offices:

SWLO – 39	CLO - 8
NWLO – 44	ELO - 0
NELO – 11	SLO – 8

## **Commercial Leasing**

- Issued a commercial RFP lease for the Spring Prairie Center in Kalispell.
  - Hotel lease.
  - Forest Service Building.
- Judith Gap Wind Farm:
  - The first lease for a wind farm on state land was executed on September 20, 2004.
- Valley County Wind Energy Project:
  - Scoping meetings soliciting public comment on the Valley County Wind Energy Project were held in late May in Glasgow and Helena. The wind farm project will be completed in four phases. By the time the last phase is complete in 2016, there will be 43 wind turbines on state land, and all 134 turbines in the project will generate 500 MW of electricity.

## **Land Banking**

- DNRC received nominations for sale of approximately 118,858 acres of trust land, of which 24,503 acres received preliminary approval for sale by the Board of Land Commissioners. The parcels will be appraised during summer and fall of 2005 with the goal of beginning to sell trust land during fall/winter 2005-2006.

## **Real Estate Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement**

- Accumulated comments for the Draft EIS over a 60-day comment period from June 21, 2004 – August 30, 2004.
- Issued Final EIS November 2004.
- Issued Record of Decision July 2005.

## **Exchanges**

- Lolo Exchange
  - Received preliminary approval from the Land Board to proceed with the exchange and an agreement to initiate was signed. Road and access issues were examined and an appraisal is in process.
- Miller Exchange
  - Received preliminary approval from the Land Board to proceed and an agreement to initiate was signed. An appraisal was conducted prior to Land Board approval.
- Five Valleys Exchange (Tarkio)
  - Received preliminary approval to proceed from the Land Board in July 2005.
- Creech Exchange
  - The applicant is in the process of acquiring land to include in the exchange.
- CB Ranch Exchange
  - Continued negotiations regarding parcels suitable for exchange.
- Land in Missoula to the Department of Military Affairs for a veteran's cemetery;
- Easement to the City of Missoula for a pedestrian bridge across the Clark's Fork River; and
- Water pipeline easement across the Big Fork River to the Big Fork Water & Sewer District. (Note: navigable rivers are considered non-trust land.)

## **Non-Trust Land Activity**

### **Department of Military Affairs (DMA):**

- National Guard Armory in Dillon to the City of Dillon and the Beaverhead School District as a transportation complex; and
- From the City of Dillon to DMA, land adjacent to DMA's remaining 3 acres to be used for a new Armory.

### **Rights-of-Way**

- Presented 377 rights-of-way applications to the Board for approval, including 296 historic easement applications submitted under 77-1-130, MCA.
- Secured access to 48,512 acres.
- Received 315.10 miles of ROW.
- Granted 28.4 miles of ROW.

### **Whitefish Neighborhood Plan**

Plan was completed and adopted by the Board of Land Commissioners in November 2004.

# CENTRAL LAND OFFICE

## **Forest Product Sales**

- Sold 3.5 MMBF of timber.
  - Patch top (1130 MBF)
  - Bear Bottom (1040 MBF)
  - Smith River II (300 MBF)
  - Prickly Pear (220 MBF)
  - Permits(813 MBF)
- Prepared 4.0 MMBF of timber for sale.
  - Bear Bottom (1040 MBF)
  - Lone Tree Pass (1000 MBF)
  - Little Woods (500 (MBF)
  - Smith River II (300 MBF)
  - Prickly Pear (220 MBF)
  - Cellar Gulch (170 MBF)
- Assisted with HCP Planning (DJ Bakken is eastside representative).

## **Forest Improvement**

- Completed regeneration surveys on 370 acres.
- Completed approximately 30 acres pre-commercial thinning.
- Completed approximately 80 acres weed spaying on timber sale sites.
- Prepared chemical site and planted 3600 DF seedlings.

## **Minerals Management**

- Conducted renewal inspections for gravel leases and permits.
- Conducted inspections for oil and gas renewals in Conrad Unit.

## **Agriculture and Grazing Management**

- Completed inspections on 236 leases expiring 2/28/2005.
- Administered the existing 3,667 grazing leases.
- Completed 60 weed treatment projects on trust lands.
- Issued 15 supplemental lease STIPS.

## **Real Estate Management**

- Participated on advisory committees and working groups as requested.
- Completed renewal inspections for 4 special leases.
- Processed easement applications.
- Administered recreational use management rules on state lands in CLO.
- Administered 46 Active Special Recreational Use Licenses for Outfitting.
- Administered 211 Active Land Use License within CLO.



# **EASTERN LAND OFFICE**

## **Forest Products Sales**

- Prepared Timber Sales and approved by the Land Board/Sold FY 2005:
  - Sand Creek Timber Sale Re-advertisement 464 MBF/3480 Tons sold April.
  - Knowlton Exchange Timber Sale 1.167 MMBF/8753 Tons to Land Board and sold March April 2005.
  - Moon Creek South Salvage Permit 26 MBF.
- Administered Timber Sale Contracts:
  - Castle Rock Timber Sale active August-November 2004 – (10 to 15 days).
  - Fire Gulch Timber Sale Active October-January 2004-5 (10 to 15 days).
  - Moon Creek South Salvage Permit (2 to 3 days).

## **Forest Improvement**

- Contracted with counties to spray noxious weeds on approximately 350 acres on 4 closed timber sales.
- Burned Slash piles from approximately 600 harvest acres.

## **Agriculture and Grazing Management**

- Evaluated and renewed 280 leases.
- Completed weed management plans in 11 counties and completed bi-annual reports as of September 2005.
- Recertified 3 ELO Land Use Specialists and one TLD Forester for weed applicators licenses.
- Generated approximately \$30,000 in additional revenue under the CRP – Crop Disaster Program (CDP) for 6 counties.
- Developed one supplemental lease STIP.

## **Minerals Management**

- Completed field reviews of 35 oil and gas leases, including environmental assessments.
- Completed 22 field reviews of oil and gas well and pipeline sites, including environmental assessments.
- Completed 3 field review of oil and gas seismic projects, including environmental assessments.
- Completed 4 field review of gravel permits and renewals, including environmental assessments.
- Completed one field review of Land Use Licenses in regards to ELO oil and gas developments, including environmental review.

## **Real Estate Management**

- Processed 18 historic Rights-of-Way.
- Recreational Use Program
  - Renewed 10 SRULs.
  - Amended 25 to 30 SRULs.
  - Issued 2 SRUL Road Use LULs.
  - Worked 20 hours on Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks signing projects.
  - Processed 15 trapping licenses.
- Land Banking Program
  - Evaluated and made approximately 125 preliminary contacts.
  - Processed approximately 80 land bank lease nominations.
  - Prepared 49 EA checklists as part of the Land Banking nominated parcel environmental review (MEPA).
  - Nominated 18,865 acres from Custer and Garfield Counties to the Land Board for sale through the Land Bank Program.
  - Conducted four public meetings for EA review and input regarding ELO Land Bank Program nominated parcels.
- Processed 8 easement applications.

# NORTHEASTERN LAND OFFICE

## **Forest Product Sales**

- Prepared Middle Fork Spring Creek Timber Sale of 1,000,000 BF

## **Mineral Management**

- Reviewed 574 oil and gas leases.
- Evaluated 24 oil and gas wells, and pipelines.
- Issued 15 permits for Oil and gas seismic exploration.
- Issued 7 new gravel permits.
- Issued 1 new flagstone permit.

## **Agriculture and Grazing Management**

- Evaluated and renewed 409 leases on 603 tracts.
- Weed management = County weed plans in place in all thirteen NELO counties  
All priority weed projects implemented or in progress  
Extensive biological control efforts undertaken

## **Real Estate Management**

- Judith Gap Windfarm under construction.
- Issued 25 new land use licenses.
- Issued a total of 139 land use licenses.
- Recreational Use Program:
  - Renewed 22 Outfitting licenses (SRUL).
  - Issued 10 multiyear licenses.
  - Processed 3 SRUL amendments.
  - Issued 14 trapping licenses (RU3).
- Processed 191 easement applications.

# NORTHWESTERN LAND OFFICE

## **Personnel**

- Assessed work environment through NWLO employee surveys and reached agreement on re-organization (in progress) with NWLO, Bureau Chiefs and Division Administrators. CMS was contracted to develop new and update effected position descriptions.
- Awarded 24 employees (formal awards) and 33 informal on-the-spot recognitions for doing a great job.
- Conducted 41 performance appraisals and training plans completed.
- Hired 9 vacant positions at NWLO.
- Conducted 8 accountability/disciplinary actions.
- Provided 409 man-days of training to permanent employees.

## **Forest Product Sales**

- Prepared timber sale volume for sale:
  - Timber Sales 31,66,000 board feet.
  - Timber Permits 2,355,000 board feet.
- Harvested timber sale volume 36,909,090 board feet.

## **Real Estate Management**

- Completed 83 renewal inspections on cabin and home sites.
- Completed 18 major actions:
  - Whitefish Neighborhood Plan approved by the Land Board, Flathead County and City of Whitefish.
  - Spring Prairie (Section 36) in Kalispell:
    - Lowes opened for business to the public in October 2004.
    - Costco is currently building the infrastructure and building, and expects to open in October of 2005.
    - Awarded a 2-acre lease to KVH Development Company and Sterling Hospitality Management to develop a Holiday Inn Express Hotel.
    - Granted Fire Station easement (1.9 acres).
    - Granted option to Goldberg (USDA, Forest Service Office RFP).
    - Granted Owl Corporation utility easement (sewer & water to subdivision which enhances availability of sewer and water to the NW1/4 of Spring Prairie).
    - Prepared master site plan for 38 acres in NW 1/4 (DNRC, Forest Service, and one TBD tenant).
    - Echo Lake Fishing Access site (from lease to license to easement now).
    - Processed Special Recreational Use licenses, Land Use licenses and outfitter licenses.
    - Completed 3 Land Banking reviews (Haskill, Mac Binger and Middlemist packages).

## **Minerals Management**

- Issued 5 small volume permits for decorative rock & gravel.
- Issued 4 large volume permits issued for decorative rock.

## **Agriculture And Grazing**

- Completed 15 inspections on leases that were expiring.
- Completed 15 intermediate inspections on riparian areas on classified forest tracts.

## **Right-Of-Ways**

- Acquired 2 reciprocal accesses, 23.44 miles (East of 83 and Dern Draw).
- Acquired 2 cost-share accesses, 7.46 miles.
- Acquired 3 private access acquisitions, 11.85 miles.
- Processed 2 navigable river crossings; 2 Land Use Licenses and pending Navigable River easements.
- Processed 23 temporary road use permits.
- Extended 1 temporary road use permit.
- Assigned 2 R/W to Road Users Association (1 to non Road Users Association).

## **Forest Improvement**

- Regeneration surveys -74 Acres
- Tree planting - 458 Acres (119,701 trees planted)
- Tree browse prevention (pre-treated 21,000 seedlings with blood meal prior to planting)
- Precommercial thinning - 1,494.6 Acres
- Noxious weed spraying - 3,306.5 Acres
- Slash piling - 1,183 Acres (204 excavator, 964 dozer, 15 hand)
- Pile burning - 1,994 Acres
- Broadcast burning - 74 Acres
- Road Maintenance - 28 Miles
- Hand brush work - 76 Acres
- Roads inventoried and entered in data base - 316 Miles
- Other (see below)

Stillwater Unit provided the following but represents major unreported Timber Sale related work completed:

### **Continued Road Maintenance**

<u>Item</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
Installed gate	1
Repaired gate	1
Installed earthen berm closure	1
Road brushing	8.5 miles
Installed culvert	1
Road maintenance	2.8 miles

Installed rubber flappers	3
Removed beaver dam	1
<u>Young Sophie</u>	
Installed drain dips	4
Reclaimed temporary haul road	2
Graded, seeded and fertilized haul road	1.5 Miles
<u>Taylor South</u>	
Installed CMPs	20
Installed open top pipe culverts	13
Placed ¾" minus crushed gravel	1410 yards
Placed 2" minus crushed gravel	90 yards
Placed pit run gravel	560 yards
Placed Talus rock	175 yards
Road maintenance	9.5 miles
<u>Chicken Werner</u>	
Road maintenance	18.5 miles
<u>Dog Meadow South</u>	
Installed open top water diverters	8
Installed relief CMPs	3
Installed rolling drain dips	29
Improved rolling drain dips	6

# **SOUTHERN LAND OFFICE**

## **Forest Management**

- Administered Pine Summit Timber Sale initially and then transferred to NELO.
- Held meeting with Bureau to coordinate eastside forest management.
- Closed out two timber permits.
- Completed SMZ inspection on Boulder River in Sweetgrass County.
- Assisted Pheasants Forever with a tree planting on State land.

## **Minerals Management**

- Completed field reviews and assisted with EA's on the Coal Creek and Dietz CBM project.
- Researched how other western states handled surface damages for minerals.
- Involved in field inspection, EA completion, monitoring reclamation bond release on approximately 10 mineral projects.

## **Agriculture and Grazing Management**

- Completed 60+ field evaluations for 2005 lease renewals.
- Completed 10+ field evaluations for 2006 lease renewals.
- Completed 7 re-evaluations for various reasons including cancelled /vacant tracts up for competitive bidding.
- Investigated and initiated follow-up action on 10 lease management problems.
- Processed applications for improvements, assignments, and pasturing agreements on 30+ tracts.
- Administered Federal Farm Program.
- Participated in 3 EQIP meetings with NRCS personnel in Yellowstone and Sweet Grass County.
- Completed field reviews on 1 river project.
- Involved in Zullig-Wila Island dispute on Big Horn River.
- Participated Swanke-Rickard competitive bid hearing including pre and post field review.
- Completed 7 biennial weed reports and attended 20+ weed meetings with various county weed supervisors in 7 counties.
- Attended MWCA annual convention in Helena.
- Participated in the Beartooth Cooperative Weed Management Area Meeting in Red Lodge.
- Monitored 25+ cooperative weed control projects identified in the 7 coop weed plans.
- Continue to monitor exiting noxious weed infestations and complete bug releases.

## **Real Estate Management**

- Completed 7 homesite/special lease inspections.
- Issued 2 Land Use Licenses.
- Participated on working groups and advisory committees.
- Evaluated and processed 22 right of ways.
- Evaluated and worked with Commissioner's on Jellison and Lambert road issues.
- Pursued access to the Red Lodge tracts by meeting with County Commissioner's and various landowners.
- Coordinated with FWP on signing 10 sections of state land.
- Surveyed 3 different tracts with GPS and signed.
- Processed 1 new SRUL's.
- Investigated and completed follow-up on 10 recreational use complaints.
- Rescinded one recreational use closure and placed restrictions on tract.
- Participated on Crossing the Barriers group to address issues for disabled recreationists.
- Participated on Real Estate Identification team meetings.
- Participated in the City of Billings Corridor Study for the Inner Belt Loop roadway that would connect Wicks Lane with Zimmerman trail.
- Assisted lessees in explaining Land Banking program and reviewed and evaluated 26 nominated parcels. Prepared EA's for 3 parcels that are going through sale process.
- Teamed with REMB to prepare RFP for a windfarm near Springdale. Currently in Phase 2 of RFP process.
- Assisted DPHHS by issuing an emergency construction license to allow the Town of Columbus to upsize and relocate a water line that traverses DPPHS owned property.
- Entered into contracts to complete a Master Plan update and Traffic Accessibility study for proposed Skyview ridge Subdivision in Billings Heights.
- Participated in the City of Billings efforts to create a neighborhood plan for the Billings Heights.



# **SOUTHWESTERN LAND OFFICE**

## **Forest Products Sales**

- Prepared 16.578 MMBF of timber sales and permits.
- Prepared 4 salvage sales (Dry Cr Helicopter, Bunch Gulch, East Trout Beetle & West Fork Limited Access) and numerous salvage timber permits in response to bark beetle mortality. Plans have been continually changing due to the need to address salvage.
- Administered the harvest of approximately 18 MMBF of timber sales and permits.
- Monitored plan/rule compliance.
- Spot checked snags and CWD on 2 sold sales.
- Monitored existing road inventory contracts and issued a new Contract
- Completed mid-term grazing evaluations for 2004.
- Incorporated weed control practices into ongoing timber sale projects (washing equipment, weed spraying, biological releases)
- Assisted with TS Contract Revision and participated in conducting a Training Session for Sale Administrators spring 2005 (FMAC - Working Group).
- Assisted with HCP Planning (Steve Kamps - SWLO representative).
- Assisted FWP in live trapping gray wolves at Sula.
- Coordinated and conducted bat inventory and monitoring with FWP and Natural Heritage Program at the Mount Baldy Sink, as part of a proposed timber sale.
- Assisted FWP with development of a management plan for the Threemile Wildlife Management Area, and construction of the associated Environmental Assessment.
- Participated in Wildlife Working Group – Blackfoot Challenge.
- Participated in Data Working Group (Mike McGrath – SWLO representative).
- Participated in TMDL work – Blackfoot Challenge.
- Assisted with development of Forest Management part of TLMS (Will Wood/Linda Holtom - SWLO reps.). Additional procedures (work) associated with data entry into TLMS are resulting in problems staying current with TS & TP billings. Hope to transfer some responsibility for timber permits to Units but waiting on training.
- Participated on Forest Management Advisory Committee.

## **Forest Improvement**

- Planted 205,904 trees on 715 acres.
- Completed 485 ac of plantation/regeneration surveys.
- Completed 35 ac of pre-commercial thinning.
- Completed 237 ac of noxious weed spraying.
- Released Biocontrol Bug on 32 sites.
- Completed 680ac of herbicide application (vegetation control associated with planting).
- Machine piled brush on 42 acres.
- Road maintenance on 17 miles.
- Completed hand brush work on 25 acres.
- Burned brush piles on 385 acres (no broadcast burning this year).

- Jon Hayes served as Chairman of the Inland Empire Reforestation Council.
- Completed the Mill Creek and Sweeney Creek Cost Share projects, the Nature Conservancy Reciprocal Access Agreement, and purchased R/W from Lewis & Clark County and YT Timber.
- Acquired 6.85 miles of road easement.
- Granted 1.2 miles of road easement.

### **Minerals Management**

- Conducted gravel permit inspections.
- Took corrective actions on Jim Young Industrial Site/Gravel Permit and work on reclamation.
- Worked with Sheriff, DFWP, DNRC, Road Dept to discourage dumping, off-road use and shooting in old gravel pit near Harpers Bridge. Secured grant monies from DNRC and from the Missoula CD and completed reclamation activities (\$60,000)
- Issued five (5) small volume permits.

### **Agriculture and Grazing Management**

- Completed grazing lease/license inspections for agreements expiring 2/28/05.
- Administered existing grazing leases and licenses.
- Analyzed data regarding effectiveness of sheep to control leafy spurge—Racetrack area.
- Reviewed 1<sup>st</sup> year accomplishments and updated annual weed management plans with counties. Continued weed management activities including chemical spraying, bio-control releases and monitoring. (see FI for accomplishments)

### **Real Estate Management**

- Proceeded with numerous exchange proposals (see Real Estate Management Bureau for details)
  - DNRC-Lolo NF
  - Five Valley Land Trust (Alborton Gorge)
  - John Miller
  - Creech
  - CB Ranch
- Participated on Department working groups/advisory committees as requested.
- Reviewed and commented on programmatic REMB plan.
- Nominated two parcels for land banking (River Junction and Meyer Ranch).
- Completed Reserve Street marketing and appraisal for two commercial lots.
- Applied for and received permit for removal of underground storage tank on state cabin site at Greenough Hill. Completed a portion of cleanup operations
- Completed renewal inspections on cabin sites as well as special use licenses.
- Completed land surveys of St Regis and Fish Creek Cabin site areas.
- Processed numerous applications for easement and for temporary road use.
- Administered recreational use on state lands.
- Met with Seeley Lake Community Council to discuss potential development of the Seeley Airport tract. Began efforts to secure county road access from the south.